

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James R. Gannoe et al.  
Serial No. : TBD  
Filed : November 6, 2001  
Title : APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC SURGERY  
  
Art Unit : 3732  
Examiner : P. Philogene

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November 6, 2001

(Date of Deposit)

E. Richard Skula

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

  
(Signature)

November 6, 2001

(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Patent Application filed on  
eventdate herewith which is a Divisional of prior pending application Serial No. 09/492,558  
filed on January 27, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 1-19.

09/492,558

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified Divisional Patent Application filed on even date herewith which is a Divisional of commonly assigned, copending patent application Serial No. 09/492,558. Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 1-19. Remaining claims 20-48 correspond to the Examiner's Group II contained in the Restriction Requirement in the parent case.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Gannoe et al.

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